



community success initiative

HELPING INDIVIDUALS & COMMUNITIES MOVE FROM WHERE THEY ARE TO WHERE THEY WANT TO BE

Mentoring Formerly Incarcerated Persons is Essential for Effective Transition

With 600,000 prisoners being released each year, it is imperative that they are greeted with support programs to help create a smooth transition back into the community. Often these individuals are returning to some of the poorest communities, with minimum support and service professionals trained to handle their special circumstances. Many of them have trouble adjusting to life outside of the prison system. Studies have shown that nearly two thirds of prisoners released, are re-incarcerated within three and a half years. The result of incarceration and recidivism takes a destructive human and financial toll, not just on the prisoners, but their families, communities and the nation as a whole.

The mentoring program at Community Success Initiative (CSI) is an intricate part of its reentry program, helping pair the clients with community leaders that provide support and additional resources specific to each individual's needs. Studies have shown that formerly incarcerated persons who are actively participating in a mentoring program are more likely to obtain employment and stay employed longer and reestablish themselves more productively within the community than those who do not have a mentor.

CSI's mentoring program enables us to offer more training sessions that target our clients' specific needs. Such training would include, but not limited to: job readiness and retention; anger management, rental readiness, personal development (goal setting/career planning), and budget management. We also envision setting up a transportation fund to get bus passes for those having transportation needs.

Community Success Initiative is devoted to enhancing the community by "Helping Individuals & Communities Move From Where They Are To Where They Want To Be." Visit our website to find out more about our work, www.communitysuccess.org or give us a call on (919) 834-7626 if you are interested in being a mentor.

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